

*Forum to Provide Update on Policy, Research and Innovative Care  
Criteria for Diagnosing Alzheimer's Just Revised for the First Time in Decades*

Woodbury, NY – On Wednesday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) joined with local experts for a forum on Alzheimer's disease. The event, titled Alzheimer's Disease: An Update on Policy, Research and Innovative Care, provided an update on the latest policy and research surrounding Alzheimer's. On Monday, the National Institutes of Health and the Alzheimer's Association announced the first new criteria for diagnosing Alzheimer's in nearly three decades.

"More than 55,000 Long Islanders are living with Alzheimer's and as the Baby Boomer generation ages that number is expected to skyrocket," said Rep. Israel. "This forum brings together leaders in research, treatment and advocacy for an update on how we are progressing in the fight against Alzheimer's. And there is good news, in January legislation I fought for, the National Alzheimer's Project Act, became law, creating a coordinated national plan to overcome the Alzheimer's crisis."

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and is the only cause of death among the top 10 without a way to prevent, cure, or even slow its progression. One in eight persons over the age of 65 and nearly half of those over the age of 85 has Alzheimer's. Ten million U.S. Baby Boomers are expected to develop Alzheimer's disease.

On January 4, 2011, President Obama signed into law the National Alzheimer's Project Act, which Rep. Israel supported. The Act will create a coordinated national plan to overcome the Alzheimer crisis and will ensure the coordination and evaluation of all national efforts in Alzheimer research, clinical care, institutional, and home- and community-based programs and their outcomes. Specifically, it establishes in the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) the Office of the National Alzheimer's Project to:

- Accelerate the development of treatments that would prevent, halt or reverse the course of Alzheimer's;
- Create and maintain an integrated national plan to overcome Alzheimer's;
- Help to coordinate the health care and treatment of citizens with Alzheimer's;
- Ensure the inclusion of ethnic and racial populations that are at higher risk for Alzheimer's or that are least likely to receive care in clinical, research and service efforts with the purpose of

decreasing health disparities;

- Coordinate with international bodies to integrate and inform the fight against Alzheimer's globally; and
- Provide information and coordination of Alzheimer's research and services across all federal agencies.

Participants at the forum included: Rep. Steve Israel; State Senator Carl Marcellino; Diane Fagiola, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Director of Development; Assistant Professor Adam Kepecs, Ph.D., Cold Spring Harbor Labs; Joe Hammang, Pfizer, Senior Director, Worldwide Policy; James Clyne, Executive Director, NY Association of Homes and Services for the Aging; Mary Ann Malek-Ragona, Executive Director, Long Island Alzheimer's Association.

Rep. Israel is a member of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's disease and has been a leader on fighting for increased awareness and funding for Alzheimer's disease.